EXTRACT

FROM

THE MINUTES

OF THE

EVANGEL. LUTHERAN SYNOD

OF

NORTH-CAROLINA

AND

ADJACENT STATES

CONVENED AT

ORGAN CHURCH, ROWAN COUNTY, N. C.

on the 1st Sunday of May,

1831.

SALEM:

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1831.

THE

EVANGELICAL

LUTHERAN SYNOD

OF

NORTH-CAROLINA

AND

ADJACENT STATES

convened, pursuant to adjournment at the Organ Church, Rowan County, N. C. on the first Sunday in May, 1831, and continued in Session during the 2d, 3d and 4th, transacting business relative to the promotion of that part of the Lord's Vineyard under their care.

Sunday, May 1st.—A crowded audience filled the Church, and pertinent and influential discourses were delivered by sundry preachers to the same with apparent effect.

Sermons preparatory to the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper were preached the day previous and this day; and a considerable number of humble Christians partook then of the consecrated Elements in true faith, and none but Skepticks, or Enemies could doubt of the spiritual presence of our Lord, imparting blessings to the hearts which were prepared to receive them.

On Monday, May 2d.—Synod was opened by a hymn and an address to the Throne of Grace, by the President.

The names of Ministers belonging to this Synod were then read, by which it appeared that 6 ordained, 5 Licentiates, and 2 Catechets formed our present Ministry; It had pleased the Lord to take to his eternal rest our Rev. Sen. Pastor Storch, a month before this meeting.

We had not the pleasure to welcome any deputy from other Synods, but received some of their Minutes, as New-York, East Pennsylvania, West Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, and participated in the increase of our Churches, and the signs of revivals in some.

The Lay Delegates appeared from our Congregations, proved their election, and took seats as Members of the Synod.

The officers were then elected: G. Shober, *President*, and Henry Graeber, *Secretary*.

Donations from our Congregations were then handed in, and the Treasurer, G. Shober, being re-elected, received $63 6 cents; and when the Treasurer's account and vouchers were examined by a Committee on Tuesday the 3d, he reported that he had in hand and owed $149 33 cents.

After the Minutes of the last Synod were read, Committees were appointed to examine the petitions and memorials laid on the table, to report thereon.

During the 2d day Sermons were delivered to a large Congregation.

The new Constitution proposed by the last General Synod, for adoption by the Synods united with them, was, on motion, laid over for the next meeting.

The Committee to whom petitions and memorials were submitted, reported on them.

On Tuesday and Wednesday their Reports were either adopted, amended or laid over.

All the meetings of the Synod were commenced and ended by singing and prayer.

And when the business before us was nearly completed, on the 4th day of May, a large Congregation assembled, and after an appropriate hymn and impressive Sermon was sung and delivered, the following Licentiates were solemnly ordained, as Pastors of the Lutheran Church in North America, by the impositions of the hands of the President, and two assistants, according to our Liturgie: Andrew Sehcrist, William Artz, D. P. Rosenmiller, and Jacob Kaempfer.

There was a solemn attention paid to the transaction, by the whole Congregation, and there is no doubt, but that the solemn engagements, entered into by these 4 Ministers, to preach the Gospel of Jesus unadulterated, was recorded in the Archives of Heaven, from whence, if they remain in humility and guides of the sheep of Jesus, they will already here see the fruit of such their exertions, which are influenced by the Holy Ghost.

After this meeting the Missionary Society had their meeting as reported by their Secretary.

A few Licenses were renewed; and resolved that our next Synod should be in Pauls Church, Lincoln County.

The President then addressed the Congregation and in the name of the Synod, gave thanks to those who so willingly supported the members of the Synod, and when all was acted on, which regularly came to the cognizance of the Synod, we bent our knees in solemn prayer to Jesus the head of his Church, asking him for light and knowledge in the official

course, which each of us had to run, in order that at the end of our race, we may say in all humility: "We have done what we could."

This is all that can be said of the transactions of our Synod, as it was written from memory nearly 3 months after Synod had adjourned.

The Secretary having failed to finish the Minutes for the press in time, our kind readers, especially the members of the Lutheran Church, will this year please to be satisfied with the short recollection of the transactions, and pray for their Ministers, that they may continue to act in unison and love, and with power, in love, prevent schisms to increase.

In the Spirit of Love, after the blessing of the Lord had been pronounced, we departed to our homes.

MINISTERIAL REPORT.

	Congregations.	Baptized.....	Confirmed.....	Communicants.	Buried.....	Sund. Schools.
Rev. G. Shober	1	6	8	30		1
Jacob Sherer	5	31	15	315	13	3
Daniel Sherer	3	130	9	237	17	2
		2 a.				
Wm. Jenkins	5	53	7	100	16	
Henry Graeber	3	86	77	387	14	3
G. Kempfer	4	25	23	82	15	2
D. P. Rosenmiller		2				
A. Greims	3	20		75		
Jn. Reck, in Michels Church,		5			2	
J. Grieson		6	8		11	
Jacob Miller or Rosenmiller		7 a.				3
A. Sehcrist	4	43	35	190	6	
		2 a.				
Rev. Artz	5	86	35	316		
		2 a.				

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SPECIAL AND GENERAL REPORT

OF THE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

IN

NORTH-CAROLINA.

In discharge of the request of the Lutheran Synod, in 1830, to report to this Synod 1831, the situation of the Lutheran Church in North-Carolina, and adjacent States, it appears necessary, in order to raise humble thanks towards Jesus, the head of his Church, in the hearts of his adorers to make a comparison of the present situation of the Lutheran Church, with its situation as it was fifty years ago; particularly also, as it has pleased the Lord to take the Rev. Charles A. G. Storch to his eternal rest, after near forty years faithfully serving him. He was the revivor of the Church in N. Carolina, and thousands now no doubt have him in blessed memory, and such, of the true members of the Church, who have gone before him will now sing eternal hymns of praise, because they were led on earth the true road by him, who now hath also arrived, visible to adore and worship him, who has purchased them by his blood; yea how humiliated will he sink down and adore the Lamb of God, when the crown of the conquerors is handed to him, and he hears the words of his Redeemer, "*enter into the joys of thy Lord:—thou wast my servant on earth, and hast been faithful over a little.*" Who would not, viewing such a scene in spirit, desire to have been a faithful servant of Jesus, or to have obeyed and lived up to his Doctrine, and remained faithful to the end.

Before he entered into the Lord's field, here it lay waste, as no Lutheran Minister from the northern provinces, now States, attended regularly to the many emigrating Lutherans from there; sometimes they were visited by such who called themselves Lutheran Ministers, but they only travelled through, preached here and there, and also baptized children; but as their lives were not always exemplary according to the Gospel, the Lutheran Church was not much regarded, until at last the Rev. Mr. Arndt established a few Congregations near Catawba River, which yet exist in Iredell and Lincoln Counties; and the Rev. Mr. Nussman established a few Congregations in Rowan County. Both these Ministers travelled about a good deal, and the Rev. Mr. Nussman, (weak as he was,) established 2 Congregations in Surry, now Stokes County, and

instructed and confirmed old and young, these have not yet died out. But as the work increased daily, and the want of able teachers became more evident, and which could not be received from America, and the prospect of supporting a Ministry was very discouraging, the Rev. Mr. Nussman and others turned their view to Germany, and represented the dying situation of the Church, and prayed for help. The representation of the situation of the Lutheran Church in N. C. and the groanings of them for spiritual help, caused particularly in Brunswick Lunenburg, where the Rev. Mr. Felthusen was at the University Professor of Divinity, great commisseration, and assistance in books and money arrived to him from many parts, which enabled the Ministry there to seek and to call young Evangelists, to come to the assistance of their longing Brethren in both Carolinas; and our now happy Br. Storck, received in the year 1788 the call to serve in North-Carolina as a Minister of the Gospel; he gave himself up with joy to this service, although the appearances were cloudy, and on the 12th of March, 1788, he was solemnly consecrated and ordained in Helmsted, by Professor Felthusen, and the Ministry of the city. Friends paid the expenses of the journey, and he arrived the same year by way of Baltimore and Charleston in Salisbury, where, after some time, he settled and established a Congregation, which, through many vicissitudes, yet exists; he began or served other Congregations in Rowan County. When he commenced his ministerial career, he was 24 years old, he visited other counties, and new life arose every where among tbe Lutheran Society; whoever saw and heard him owned him in doctrine and walk, as a true and industrious servant of Jesus; this Congregation increased fast, and the Church acquired by his services, also among other persuasions, the deserved consideration, as the first and oldest protestant Church.

Thus he served incessantly his dear Congregations with much blessing, and enjoyed the love of all; he refused sundry lucrative situations to other cities, out of love to his flock: and as soon as a Synod of the Lutheran Church was formed in N. C., he was annually elected President, when he could be present, and his near 37 years service will remain in blessed memory. Since a few years his sickness, which often kept him in bed, compelled him to give up his Congregations, but he always participated in the happiness and wo of the Church and his former flock, by praises, prayer, sighing and temporal assistance. But it is painful to believe that offences, which were

effected in the Congregations, have increased his sickness in his weak constitution and body. And the righteous Judge knows his pronounced word, "*Wo to that man by whom the offence cometh.*" Matt. 18 7. The last days of his life were very painful, until his Friend, Jesus, whom he loved, took him to his eternal rest on the 27th of March, 1831; where all weakness and trouble is buried under his feet.

While he served his Congregations, he babtized in the Organ Church 1500 children and no doubt, as many in his other Congregations.

According to the best obtainable information, (as no index is found,) he confirmed 1300 young people, and no doubt as many in 3 or 4 other, but smaller Congregations. One of his successors baptized and confirmed in 10 years as many.

His Congregations sing after him:–

Far from affliction, toil and care,
The happy soul is fled;
The breathless clay shall slumber here
Among the silent dead.

The Gospel was his joy and song,
Ev'n to his latest breath;
The truth he had proclaimed so long
Was his support in death.

Now he resides where Jesus is,
Above this dusky sphere;
And we shall see his face no more
Till Jesus shall appear.

The friends in Europe had the goodness to send more assistance after the Rev. Storck; one had congregations in and about Lexington, another in Guilford, but these after a few years left their Congregations, one returned to Europe, the other died in South-Carolina. Others who came from other parts, seperated from us and began their own course, but caused much disturbance among us. But yet the Lord awakened from time to time, out of our Congregations, able, industrious and pious young men, who followed their calling with fidelity, by which our Congregations were kept in blossom, and the hope of harvesting ripe fruit arises, as we now have received for some time past, from Pennsylvania and Maryland, valiant help, by which our Congregations are much encouraged, and have increased. This also is an evidence that our Seminary in Gettisburg, begins to produce blessed fruits, as thereby our

Church will be provided with capable preachers, and with such, who are able, as well instructed divines, and exercised in experimental faith, and filled with the Holy Spirit; and as classical speakers, will not be ashamed with power and love, to intimitate hardened sinners, apostates, and anti-christian preachers, with Scripture proofs, and also to subdue the Enthusiastic Spirit, and to instruct souls to seek and find the Lord in the still small voice, as the prophet found him there, and not in storm, fire and earthquake. 1 Kings, 19, 10 11. And should it please the Lord to revive among us the spirit of prayer and supplication, old and young would then be roused to support such who labour in the Lord's vineyard, in such a manner, that they could dedicate their whole time to the service, and not be prevented by worldly cares, to visit families every day, and thus also lead the lambs and sheep of Jesus nearer to their Shepherd, and also to have less temptation to accept more profitable invitations, in order that their families may not remain in indigent circumstances; for this has occasioned many beloved and serviceable preachers to leave their Congregations, and thereby our Zion has suffered in the esteem of other industrious Societies, as these, according to the latest advise increase in all countries, to which their well supported Missionaries are sent, much faster than our Church which 300 years ago spread over Europe like a storm, (as it was in its first love.) But God be praised, that notwithstanding so much lukewarmness exists, that there are many among us, who can with joy sing and say: the Lord with his Spirit has not yet departed from his people among us, and on him we have confidence. The candle-stick is not yet removed, the glimmering light is not yet extinguished, and blessed are we, if the Lord tells us, "the bruised seed I will not break, and the smoking flax I will not quench, and as soon as you call for it with fervent desire, I will rekindle your light again into a bright flame."

That the Lord and his Spirit have not yet left us, we see by the reports of our Congregations.

The Congregations in the south part of Rowan, and north part of Cabarras, were for some years much disturbed, as some who had seperated themselves from us, and with their leader attempted by process of law to obtain possession of a Church, with tne hope that, if they gained that process, all our Churches would be open to them, there to propagate the doctrine which they call Lutheran; but as they have lately lost the suit

in the Supreme Court of the State, according to the constitution of the Church which 30 odd years ago was formed according to the original foundation of all Lutheran Congregations; it is hoped that peace will unite again all true christian hearts in love, and that offences will cease. In the above counties, Davidson and Iredell, there are 15 Congregations divided among 4 ordained Ministers. In some of the Congregations, the lay-officers of them, promise to uphold with fidelity pure Church discipline, as far as the dispersed situation of the members permits in order that the sores of our Zion may be healed, and the inclination of preachers go to other and distant flocks, where the word of God is anxiously desired to be propagated, be diminished.

The Rev. Mr. Rosenmiller, who was educated in Gettysburg, and who has 3 Congregations in and about Lexington, and 2 in and near Salisbury, began a large School in Lexington, and if the Lord says *yea* to his industrious attempts and offers, he will prepare young men in the rudiments of classical education, to enable them, if they dedicate themselves to the Lord's service in our Church, to study theology in Gettysburg; he also superintends Sunday Schools. The Rev. Mr. Reck, who was stationed in Salisbury, last year left his loving and beloved congregations, and now has congregations in Maryland.

Among the 6 congregations in Lincoln County ,in the care of the Rev. Mr. Graeber, which he serves every 4 weeks, the desire after unadulterated doctrine appears to increase; he enjoys the love of his congregations and assistants, and is in friendly connection with the reformed Ministers in the county. The misapplication of the pure Lutheran Doctrine, and the emnity against our General Synod, which prevailed there for some years, ceases by degrees.

The Rev. Mr. Artz in Guilford County, rejoiceth that in his five congregations, he perceives an increasing thirst after Divine Wisdom since he is their pastor, and an increased attachment to the Doctrine of Grace, a principle Doctrine of the Lutheran Church, and which may be obtained by all men, if they obey the invitation; And he finds that the preached Word of God proves its power to the conversion of sinners, and to the confirmation of his people in redeeming faith. A good number of young people have, after instruction, voluntarily united with the Church, and hopefully entered with God into the eternal covenant of Grace. But, with all such condescending and lovely visits of the God of principalities and powers in heaven and on earth, by which he favors this part of his

Zion, we have to lament and experience, that a Spirit, leading to blindness and disturbance, propagates the most dangerous doctrines, whereby vice is cloaked over, and the souls are led to carnal sleep, in consequence of which some of our people have united with other denominations; But praised be God! that the greatest majority remained firm, with the church of their fathers, and are faithful to the principles in which they were raised. The Rev. Mr. Grieson, the faithful Assistant of the Rev. Mr. Artz, does as much as is in his power to keep true faith in Jesus alive.

It is a true cause of mourning, that 2 congregations in Stokes County, which were established by the Rev. Mr. Nussman and Arndt, and visited by our deceased Br. Storch, and which were together with a new congregation, renewed and established these 20 years, appear to approach the sleep of death, and if they are not by the help of God and their present Minister, the Rev. Jacob Miller, awakened again, they will at last die, and revival be unattainable. But praised be God! that, with all dark prospects, a seed of true piety has remained in these congregations, which, as soon as it pleaseth the Lord, may sprout, and spread, and cover the ground with flowers and fruit. In the mean time vicious lives, of all kinds, predominate with many, and those desert our church and meetings; some unite with other sects, where, according to their form, they are brought to rest; many have moved off and others will follow them. A Sunday School, which for some years existed with blessing on some, has quite died out.

A small congregation in Stokes county, where a fine Sunday School of near 40 children exists with faithful tutors, has received last year a small increase by confirmation; among all the faithful members, which remained true to the church, and without astentation follow holiness and peace, a spirit of love and union predominates. Of the few members of our church in Wilkes county, not much can be said, catichet Adam Greims preaches among them, and about in the county, but there is no such increase that they can form themselves into a congregation.

In Wythe county, Va. 5 congregations are served by the Rev. Jacob Sherer; peace and love as the proof of the Disciples of Jesus is visible; they remain immoveable with the true doctrine of our church, and many have obtained saving faith; no tares, now and then attempted to be sown, can take root in these well cultivated fields. The blessing of the Lord is with the exertions of the Minister, and the young people delight in

coming to receive instruction. The visible congregations increase, and no doubt also the members of the congregations of the heavenly Jerusalem, as the bride of the Lamb, and which prepares, with oil in their lamps to meet the Bridegroom.

Two other congregations in Washington, and two in Wythe county, Va. are under the care of Rev. Br. Sehcrist, and with all his bodily infirmities, he works in faith and is successful.

There is another congregation in Iredell, at St. Michel's church, N. C., which since Mr. Reck left them hath no certain Minister, and is and can be but seldom visited; they sigh for help.

In Tennessee, where five congregations are in the care of the Rev. Brother Jenkins, he endeavours to establish real and not fluctuating christianity, and labours with blessing. For help from these parts we are annually and seriously called on, as he is the only Lutheran preacher in the State of Tennessee, where many members of the Lutheran church, from this and other States have settled, and live without visible pastors or shepherds, and who could easily by the help of God, and preachers filled with the Spirit of Jesus and love to immortal souls, be gathered into congregations, if they with the sound of a Trumpet as true Missionaries, could exalt their voices with the call, "come the wedding, all is prepared!"

Holt's Store, Orange County, N. C.
May 9th, 1831.

I arrived at my residence on Saturday, the 9th, in good health; and blessed be God, the preserver of men, I found my wife and young daughter also in good health. As I expect your intention is to have our Synodical proceedings printed as soon as possible, I herewith send you some extracts of the proceedings of the Missionary Society, which I hope will be appended as usual to the above.

EXTRACT

from the Minutes of the 4th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Lutheran Missionary Society in North-Carolina, convened in Organ Church, Rowan County, May 5th, 1831.

After singing and prayer with suitable addresses in the English and German languages, the members proceeded to the nomination and appointment of officers for the ensuing year; whereupon the following persons were chosen: Rev. D. P. Rosenmiller, *President.* Rev. G. Shober, Rev. Jacob Scherer, George Vogler and Christopher Brown, Esq. *Vice Presidents*; Rev. Wm. Artz *corresponding* and *recording Secretary.* The Directors are Dewalt Lentz, John Cruse, Paul Nussman, Wm. Sypherd, Rev. Daniel Scherer, Rev. Jacob Kaempfer, Abraham Sypherd, Rev. Wm. Jenkins, Christian Gregory, Isaac Hercherader, John Hordman and Daniel Overkenl.

The Treasurer's report was presented, and a committee appointed to examine the same, who reported a balance due to the Society of $89 59 cents.

The Rev. Daniel Scherer was reappointed *Treasurer.*

Resolved that a committee be appointed to employ Missionaries during the ensuing year.

Resolved, that the Rev. D. P. Rosenmiller, Rev. Wm. Artz, Rev. Jacob Kaempfer, George Vogler and Paul Nussman, compose the above committee, and that they employ, if possible, one or two Missionaries to labour in such destitute portions of our Church, as they shall designate.

The Society acknowledge the receipt of $6 17½ cents, by a letter from Henry Bustter, Treasurer of the Lutherian Missionary Society in St. Michael's Church, Iredell County.

A report of the Missionary labours of the Rev. Daniel Scherer, in the State of Illinois, was read and accepted.

Resolved, that this Society hold its next Annual Meeting on the first Monday after the third Sunday in May, 1832, in St. Paul's Church, Lincoln County.

WILLIAM ARTZ, *Secretary.*